

least we have the freedom to do so. My Peers and I are beginning to understand the sacrifices and support Veterans made to give us the freedom we enjoy today. I Thank veterans for fulfilling their obligation to freedom as I am beginning to fulfill mine.

APRIL SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Gotham Avenue School in the Elmont Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2003. Mr. Marshal Zucker is the Principal at Gotham Avenue School, and Dr. Maria Palandra is the Superintendent of Schools in the Elmont Union Free School District. I also acknowledge Joy Madera, a Trustee on the Elmont Union Free School District Board of Education who helped arrange the school's selection. The school has 840 students in grades Prekindergarten through 6, with 65 members on staff.

The Gotham Avenue School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children. The Elmont Union Free School District is a model of excellency with over 4,000 elementary school kids, which encompass over 70 spoken languages.

The school was one of two schools in the district, and one of the total 24 chosen schools in New York State, to win the 2003 Business Council of New York State Pathfinder Award. The award is given for Outstanding Educational Improvement. The recognition and honor is truly extraordinary in light of the 2,900 New York State elementary schools eligible for the Pathfinder Award.

Principal Zucker credits Gotham Avenue's recent success to the school district's new curriculum initiative. The school is focusing more attention on teacher planning and class curriculum mapping. Teachers try to instill in every student that every one of them has the capability of being a successful learner.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Gotham Avenue School and I am proud to name them school of the month for April.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, in his State of the Union address to the Nation in January, President Bush acknowledged that the country faces many challenges and rightly said that "(w)e will not deny, will not ignore, we will not pass on our problems to other Congresses and future generations." These were noble words that spoke to the true spirit of America.

Unfortunately, the budget conference report denies or ignores many of the challenges we face and passes them along to our children and to our future leaders.

By insisting on new tax cuts for the wealthiest that we simply cannot afford, the budget blueprint will explode Federal deficits and debt for years to come. These piles of debt will be passed on to future generations and will severely weaken our ability to meet the funding challenges facing Social Security and Medicare because of the retirement of the baby boom generation.

This budget projects record deficits while paving the way for up to \$550 billion in new tax cuts. This budget agreement marks the worst deficits in our Nation's history. This historic achievement is at the same time that Republicans control both the Congress and the White House. What a sad legacy that is.

The result of this budget will be higher interest rates, the crowding out of private sector investment, and a reduction in long-term economic growth. Amazingly, in just two and a half years the \$5.6 trillion surplus that was projected when President Bush took office has been eliminated.

And not surprisingly, to make room for the latest round of non-stimulative tax cuts, the budget conference agreement again proposes cutbacks in domestic priorities like education, health care, transportation, and law enforcement—cuts that would have a significant negative impact on the vast majority of Americans.

I am not here just to condemn the Republican plan. In fact, I voted for an alternative, as did a few Republicans who objected to the Speaker's budget plan. The Democratic resolution would have adequately provided for education, would have provided \$528 billion for Medicare prescription drug benefit, and would have provided some tax cuts. We wanted to put some money in the pockets of American consumers likely to spend it to give this economy a boost, a jump. We wanted to give some money to businesses to encourage them to invest, some tax cuts to businesses to encourage them to invest. We had tax cuts too, just not as massive as those included in the president's proposal. Our proposal would have been balanced in the year 2010. We accumulated a trillion dollars less debt than the Republicans. We had a budget that was commendable. It was rejected.

Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that this budget takes us further down the wrong path. This policy threatens the long-term fiscal health of our nation.

I am proud to vote against this flawed policy.

HONORING LEXISNEXIS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize LexisNexis, a Dayton, Ohio company celebrating a very important milestone. LexisNexis, the first commercial, full-text legal information service, is celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary this year. This company has more than 3,000 employees in Ohio and is headquartered in my district. It provides a service that has become a valuable information research tool to a wide range of professionals in the legal, government, business, and academic arenas.

Thirty years ago, LexisNexis launched the first online legal research system, an innovation that revolutionized the way legal and business research was conducted. Today, LexisNexis continues to revolutionize legal and business research by providing up-to-date information covering a variety of topics from legal documents to worldwide publications to legislative records. LexisNexis provides over a million and a half subscribers with a wealth of knowledge that is easily accessible.

As a lawyer and a lawmaker, I rely on the services provided by LexisNexis and am honored to recognize them today as a global leader in legal, news, and business information services. I congratulate LexisNexis on the success it has achieved over the past 30 years and wish the company and all of its 13,000 employees worldwide, continued success.

LexisNexis is truly deserving of this recognition and I am confident that it will maintain its commitment to deliver superior services and solutions to its customers over the next 30 years.

FALLEN HEROES IMMIGRANT SPOUSE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Fallen Heroes Immigrant Spouse Fairness Act, to address a situation of fundamental unfairness under current immigration law. Many of our active duty military are married to alien spouses who have applications pending for permanent legal residence. As the current law is written, should the U.S. citizen spouse die before a 2-year period of marriage is reached, the pending application of the non-citizen spouse is vacated. Widows and widowers of our men and women in uniform who are in the process of applying for a green card should not have their application process terminated if they are unfortunate enough to have lost their loved one prior to reaching the 2 year threshold.

In the 3rd District of North Carolina, where there are numerous military installations and facilities, one of my constituents, a Marine, was killed in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The spouse of this Marine is a